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## AUSTRALIAN CHIEF AFFIRMS ALLIANCE

### Hawke Says He Would Resig Rather Than Deny the U.S. Port Access or Bases

By STEVE LOHR

Special to The New York Times

CANBERRA, Australia, March 8 — Prime Minister Bob Hawke said today that there was no possibility that his Government would adopt the antinuclear stance that led New Zealand to deny visiting privileges to American warships.

Mr. Hawke said that he would step down as Prime Minister rather than preside over a Government that opposed either of the two elements he considers "indispensable" to Australia's alliance with the United States. He said these are port entry and the three military bases in Australia that are run jointly by the two countries.

"I would simply not be Prime Minister of this country under those circumstances or leader of a party that went to that position," Mr. Hawke declared.

Mr. Hawke made the comments during an interview in his office in the Parliament building here. The trim, 55-year-old Prime Minister stressed that his commitments to port entry and the bases were based mainly on his reading of Australian public opinion on his nation's vital security interests, not from any sense of "subservience" to America.

#### U.S. Dispute With New Zealand

Last month the New Zealand Government refused to allow United States Navy ships to visit unless it was assured they were not carrying nuclear weapons, something Washington refused to do because its policy is not to comment on whether any of its ships are carrying such weapons. The Reagan Administration reacted sharply, pulling out of joint military exercises, withholding intelligence information and refusing to attend a meeting in July of the 33-year-old alliance of Australia, New Zealand and the United States that is known as Anzus.

One concern of American officials is that other allies might follow New Zealand's example if it appeared New Zealand had been able to deny American ships port entry "cost free."

In contrast to the situation in New Zealand, Mr. Hawke asserted that there is a "lack of depth" to the antinuclear movement in Australia. Yet it was antinuclear sentiment, particularly from the left wing of his own Labor Party, that forced Mr. Hawke last month to renege on an earlier pledge to allow American planes to use Australian bases to monitor a test of the MX missile.

#### Hawke's Assessment Shared

Most political commentators agree with the Prime Minister's assessment that in Australia there will not be widespread public demand to follow New Zealand's policy.

"The antinuclear feeling here is growing and it's difficult to measure," said Don Aitkin, a professor of political science at Australian National University. "But I don't think it will reach the stage where it will put a lot of pressure on the Government to ban port entry of nuclear ships."

In pulling back from his original decision to cooperate with the MX test, Mr. Hawke bowed to pressure from his party's left wing, political experts here say. But by going no further, and by underscoring his commitment to the bases and to port entry, the Prime Minister is in tune with the views of the majority of the electorate, they add.

"He made this one concession to the left and no more," noted Malcolm Mackerras, senior lecturer at the Australian Defense Force Academy. "I think he's playing it correctly."